

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

NOVEMBER 15, 2005

**SARAH C.**

On October 14, 2005, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) reported the death of two year-old Sarah C., a child under DCFS supervision. The child was taken to Garfield Medical Center for a broken arm. However, against medical advice, her caretakers were allowed to return home with the child, resulting in the child's life-threatening trauma injuries and death. Currently, DCFS is in the process of investigating the case to determine any violation of case management to prevent future occurrences as in the case of Sarah C.

The State Community Care Licensing Division investigated Garfield Medical Center and found that the hospital failed to follow protocols related to nurse assessment of the pediatric patient, and the nurses and physician failed to follow protocols related to suspected child abuse.

Hospital staff who work with children are mandated child abuse/neglect reporters by law and, as such, the enforcement of mandated child abuse/neglect reporting is the responsibility of law enforcement agencies. To protect children, DCFS has made

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**MOTION**

Burke \_\_\_\_\_

Yaroslavsky \_\_\_\_\_

Knabe \_\_\_\_\_

Antonovich \_\_\_\_\_

Molina \_\_\_\_\_

efforts to enhance mandated reporter training. DCFS has developed an interagency website for mandated reporters designed to better identify children and families who may be at-risk of abuse/neglect, and has presented 34 community mandated reporter sessions, as well as 21 community outreach presentations since 2004. However, it is imperative that DCFS and the Department of Health Services have a more direct role in the training of mandated child abuse/neglect reporting for public and private hospitals.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the:

1. Department of Children and Family Services, in collaboration with the Department of Health Services, to report back to the Board in 90 days with a plan to establish a mandatory training program with public and private hospitals and clinic staff, which would review the required mandatory child abuse/neglect reporting laws in place.
2. Department of Health Services Facility Support Services Division to submit the State Community Care Licensing's report related to Garfield Medical Center's deficiencies to the State's Medical Board and Board of Registered Nurses.

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